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(C O P Y)

Etheldreda House,

Ely.

ELY URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

TO: The Chairman and Members,
Ely Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen - I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year ending 31st December 1959:-

1. STATISTICS: During 1959, the usual statistics have been kept and are available. These are not included in my Report.

2. GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES:

(a) Ambulances: Two Ambulances are stationed at Ely, both being operated by the Isle of Ely County Council.

The Littleport St. John Ambulance continues to work under the agency agreement with the County Council. This vehicle, which serves the local area, and those areas adjoining when necessary, continues to be of the greatest value.

MINISTRY OF HEALTH LIBRARY

The Ely and Littleport St. John Divisions continue to provide ambulance attendants; who give up much of their spare time in carrying out these duties for the benefit of the general public, many of whom, I am afraid, fail to appreciate what is given so willingly and quietly. It is a sad fact that each year sees it more difficult to man these duties, as Members are getting older, and the obtaining of young recruits to replace them becomes more and more of a problem. So many young people nowadays appear indifferent to any form of voluntary social service for the benefit of others.

(b) Nursing and Clinic arrangements: These are the same as for previous years. The District Nurses continue to give cheerfully their invaluable services to those needing their help.

(c) Hospitals:
(i) Tower Hospital for Chronic Sick.
(ii) St. John's Hospital for Infectious Diseases and long-stay cases.
(iii) The Grange Maternity Home.
These three Hospitals are under the control of the Regional Hospital Board.

3. WATER:
(a) The supply for Ely, including Stuntney, Adelaide, Prickwillow and Chettisham is obtained from one well and two boreholes at the Council's Waterworks at Isleham.

WATER: (cont.) During the year the chlorination plant has been renewed and replaced: and the pump for the new borehole has been delivered and installed.

Referring to previous reports in which I have drawn attention to the pumping plant in the main well, it is satisfactory to note that during the coming year there will be reorganization of the whole works, and the addition of an extra pump.

As in past years, I have to record that I do not consider that the City's water storage capacity is at all satisfactory, and that provision of a substantial increase is increasingly urgent in every way.

No major breakdowns in the pumping main occurred during the year.

(b) (i) Four bacteriological examinations were made during the year by the Public Health Service Laboratory at Cambridge, and all proved satisfactory.

(ii) The water has no plumbo-solvent action.

(iii) The quality and quantity of water has proved satisfactory. No contamination was discovered during the year and, therefore, no action in respect of this has been necessary.

(iv) It is calculated that 4% of houses in the District are without a proper water supply: 1% are supplied by standpipe: and the remaining 95% of houses have a proper water supply.

4. SEWAGE:

(i) Extensions: No extensions were made in 1959.

(ii) Sewage Disposal Works: Work has proceeded most satisfactorily on these long waited for, long overdue works: and it is with very great delight that I look forward to the early Spring, by which time the Disposal Works should be completed and in use.

(iii) The Prickwillow Disposal Works remain in the condition as noted in my previous report: and reconstruction is becoming more imminent each year.

(iv) The Lynn Road - Downham Road watercourse is down on the list for attention in 1960.

5. HOUSING: This year has been a most difficult one, as for the larger part of the period the Council were without the services of a Public Health Inspector, owing to the great tragedy attending the death of Mr. Roy Smith. During this time I dealt with as much of the urgent work as I could, but there was necessarily a tremendous back-log of work facing Mr. John Bryan, when he took up his appointment as Public Health Inspector in November 1959.

HOUSING: (cont.) During the year 23 new houses were completed making a total of 521 new houses erected by the Council since the war. A record of which I feel the Council can be justly proud.

(a) Number of houses which on inspection were considered to be unfit for human habitation or in a condition prejudicial to health ..... Approx. 200

(b) Number of preliminary notices served 6

(c) Number of representations made to the local authority with a view to:-

(i) The serving of notices requiring the execution of works 2

(ii) The making of demolition orders 6

(iii) The making of closing orders 4

(d) Number of formal notices served requiring the execution of works 0

(e) Number of houses demolished 24

(f) Number of formal notices served under the Public Health Act 1936 2

(g) Inspection referring to Certificates of Disrepair 1

Improvement Grants made:
(Discretionary 6)
(Standard 5) 11
(For the period 1st Apr. 59 - 31st Mar. 60.)

I must point out that the progress of Slum Clearance depends on the number of Council Houses available for re-letting.

6. SCHOOLS: I have no comments to make this year.

7. MILK: In April the Milk (Special Designations) (Specified Areas) Order came into operation in the District. This Order, which I welcome, restricts the sale of milk by retail for human consumption to milk only of a special designation (Pasteurized, Sterilized or Tuberculin Tested).

Looking back over the past twenty-five years, it is interesting to note the tremendous improvement in the conditions under which milk can be sold for human consumption. Recalling those conditions existing a quarter of a century ago, makes one shudder.

It is, of course, still necessary to draw the attention of all concerned to the relevant regulations, and to emphasise that it is only the continued care and conscientiousness of employer and employee alike that the present position can be maintained. If Regulations are ignored or forgotton everything necessary to stop offenders continuing, will be done.

MILK: (cont.) I still wish the general public could be educated to put milk bottles well above ground-level outside houses; and, in those few cases still remaining, to desist from using milk bottles for other purposes.

8. INFECTIOUS DISEASES:

(a) 314 notifications of infectious diseases were received.

The total is made up as follows:-

Measles	219
Whooping Cough	41
Scarlet Fever	14
Pneumonia	21
Food Poisoning	6
Sonne Dysentry	13
Total	314

Although there was a much increased incidence of notifiable infectious disease during the year, this was largely due to a fairly extensive number of cases of measles. This was of a mild character and there were few complications. The greater number of them occurred in the very early school age (infants) group.

(b) Disinfection of premises etc., is regularly carried out in cases of notifiable disease; also when infection is reported or requests are received for any special reasons.

(c) Once again, I can record with very great satisfaction, the fact that no case of Diphtheria has occurred in the District during the year. Children can be protected against this "killing" disease by early immunization. It is of extreme importance that all parents should realise that Diphtheria can only be kept at bay if their children are brought by them for immunization. Protection can also be given in many cases against Whooping Cough and, of course, Small Pox and Anterio-Poliomyelitis. Parents failing to have their children immunized, should in my opinion, feel guilty of criminal negligence.

(d) Tuberculosis:

3 new cases were notified during the year. After making necessary adjustment, there are now the following numbers on the Register:-

Respiratory:	Non-Respiratory:
Males - 29.	-.
Females - 18.	2.

Compared with 1958, the total figures show a decrease of 4 cases.

9. FOOD:

(a) Premises:

(i) 10 premises are registered for the preparation of Sausages and Preserved Food.

(ii) 34 premises are registered for storage and sale of Ice Cream. There is no ice cream manufactured for sale in the area.

(iii) There is one private slaughterhouse in the district. In accordance with the long-standing policy of the Council, meat inspection is carried out by a local Veterinary Surgeon.

Towards the end of the year advice was given by the Public Health Inspector and myself on the plans for the reorganizing and reconstruction of the slaughterhouse.

Number of animals slaughtered)
Number of carcases inspected) 5,663.

(iv) The following is a list of food handling premises in the area:-

Butchers	11
Restaurants, Cafes and Snack Bars	8
Bakers and Confectioners	4
Grocers	12
Greengrocers	11
Licensed Premises	41
Sweets and Tobacco	10
Wet and Fried Fish	5
Wholesale Warehouse	1
School Kitchens	4
General Stores	17
Ice Cream	2
Mineral Water Manufacturers	1
Brewery	1

(b) Food Hygiene:

I would refer to my report for 1958, in which I pointed out that, despite some improvement, the position of food hygiene cannot yet be said to be satisfactory in the District.

I am sorry to say that this is again true for 1959.

In the absence of the Public Health Inspector it has been inevitable that less inspection and supervision was carried out than in previous years. As I say, this was inevitable, although I deeply deplore it. Some reorganization in the Public Health Department in the near future will become very necessary and essential if the carrying out of the food hygiene regulations is to be enforced.

In some cases during the past few years employers have made wonderful efforts to improve conditions, and with the co-operation of their employees they have little to fear.

Food Hygiene: (cont.)

In other cases, it will only be by repeated inspections that any sort of improvement can be obtained, while in a few cases, I feel only prosecution will drive home the fact that the Council is determined to enforce these essential regulations.

However, both the Public Health Inspector and I would much prefer to give advice and assistance, which we are always willing to do on request, rather than to ask the Council to use a much more drastic method.

Once again, I must draw attention to the extremely poor conditions under which food is kept in many homes in the District. It is obvious that many housewives fail to appreciate that food hygiene affects them as well as shop-keepers; and that many need much more education in this subject.

I often wonder why the elements of food hygiene are not taught in Schools; rather than certain subjects which appear to be of little value to a child when he or she reaches adult life and responsibilities.

(c) Unsound Food:

The following items of food were surrendered unfit for food and destroyed:-

1 x 14 lbs. Tin Ham.
1 x 15 lbs. " "
1 x 8 lbs. " "
1 x 12 lbs. " "
1 x 14½ lbs. " "

5 x 6 lbs. Jellied Veal.

150 Assorted tins of Fruit and Vegetables.

36 lbs. Cheese.

1 x 4 lbs. Luncheon Meat.
1 x 6 lbs. " "
1 x 8 lbs. " "

10 lbs. Sausages.

50 lbs. Bacon.

1 x 6 lbs. Corned Beef.
1 x 14½ lbs. " "

1 x 9 lbs. 5 ozs. Fish.

1 x 25 lbs. Fruit.
1 x 10 lbs. "

1 x 14 ozs. Tomatoes.

1 x 12 lb. 3ozs. Tomato Juice.

Unsound Food: (cont.)

1 x 2 lbs. 12 ozs. Vegetables.

4 Pints Milk.

1 x 11 lbs. 9 ozs. other meats.

1 x 10½ ozs. Soup.

1 x 4½ ozs. Marmalade.

3 bottles orange squash.

1 x 1 lb Steak and kidney pie.

1 x 5 oz. Jar Horseradish.

1 x 2 lbs. Animal Meat.

Once again, I would draw attention to the need for special vigilance by those who handle and sell processed meat (Corned Beef, Ham etc.).

10. MISCELLANEOUS:

(i) Insect Pest Control:

No unusual problems have been encountered.

(ii) Shops:

In the absence of the Public Health Inspector, for reasons already given, fewer routine inspections were carried out. Urgent matters were dealt with as and when they appeared.

(iii) Rodent Control:

No particular problems have arisen. Your Rodent Operator continues his good work, and during the year carried out 671 inspections and 126 treatments.

(iv) Smoke Abatement:

No real problem has arisen during the year. One Factory with which we had trouble in the past is not at present in production.

In my Report for the previous year I drew attention to the evil clouds of black fumes emanating from so many diesel-engined lorries and trucks: and to the remarks of the Beaver Committee on Air Pollution.

During the year there has been no decrease in the clouds of black filth belched out by so many lorries and other diesel-engined vehicles.

It seems extraordinary to me that no effort is made by those in authority to stop an evil nuisance which I feel is as important to the general population as the provision of pure water and good wholesome food.

MISCELLANEOUS: (cont.)

(v) Moveable Dwellings:

I am hopeful that the new Caravan Bill will, when it becomes law, be of greater assistance to us in controlling the problems arising in the past from the use of moveable dwellings etc.

(vi) Factories:

There are 13 non mechanical and 57 mechanical factories in the register.

(vii) Common Lodging Houses:

There are no Common Lodging Houses in the City.

(viii) Swimming Pool:

On account of the very warm summer the season was a very good one. Fortunately the Chlorination Plant stood up to the strain well.

(vi) Refuse Tip:

There has been some improvement in the condition of the tip and efforts are being made to improve this further.

11. PERSONAL:

It is with very real sorrow that I record the passing of Mr. Roy Smith, in August of this year.

Mr. John Bryan came to the City in November and was faced with a tremendous amount of work which had perforce accumulated during Mr. Smith's illness. He has given me every assistance since his appointment and I thank him for this.

Mr. J. V. G. Shilston, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E. etc., and his Staff have always given me their technical advice and assistance, and I give them all my warmest thanks, particularly for the extra help which was forthcoming when we were short staffed.

I have the honour to be,
Ladies & gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) K. S. MAURICE SMITH,

Medical Officer of Health,
Ely Urban District Council.

5th September 1960.